

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following section at page 5, between lines 6 and 7:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

A more complete appreciation of the invention and many of the attendant advantages thereof will be readily obtained as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a graph illustrating the trapping of hydrogen in a pure hydrogen atmosphere with, on the one hand, a compound of the present invention (curve 1) and, on the other hand, with a commercial compound (curve 2) in an experimental cell.

Fig. 2 is a graph illustrating the volume of hydrogen (V_{H_2} (in ml)) given off per kg of bitumen, on the one hand in a pure bitumen (-O- curve) and, on the other hand, in a bitumen encapsulant according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

Please delete the ABSTRACT from the front page of the published PCT application and replace the ABSTRACT at page 28, with the following new ABSTRACT:

--ABSTRACT

A hydrogen-trapping compound is provided, along with a process for manufacturing the compound, and its uses, wherein the hydrogen-trapping compound is characterized in that it contains at least one metal salt of formula $MX(OH)$, in which M represents a divalent transition element, for example Co or Ni; O represents an oxygen atom; X represents an atom of group 16 of the Periodic Table of the Elements, excluding O, for example a sulphur atom; and H represents a hydrogen atom, and wherein the hydrogen-trapping compound is effective

Application No. 10/535,190

Reply to Office Action of June 27, 2006

for trapping hydrogen, hydrogen within a material and free hydrogen and is applicable in situations in which hydrogen is evolved and in which it has to be trapped, especially for safety reasons.--